FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ANDEAN COUNTRIES MAY GET SPECIAL OIL PRICE

PA151241 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 2 Feb 80 p 3 PA

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia hinted last night that the Arab League countries will try to give Andean Group countries preferential treatment in oil prices.

He spoke to newsmen at the airport for a few minutes before leaving for Bolivia, the last step on a Latin American tour he is making as representative of the 10th meeting of the Arab League.

The Algerian foreign minister said that Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins will leave Monday on a tour of all the capitals of the Arab League countries. He will certainly discuss many topics of interest to the Andean Group countries.

Speaking of his visit to Peru, Seddik said that he is very pleased with the warm welcome given him by the Peruvian Government, whose president, Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez, showed great interest in strengthening relations with the Arab League countries.

He said, "I was impressed by the Peruvian president's clear concept of international problems."

Seddik also recalled that President Morales Bermudez, then minister of economy and finance, visited Algeria a few years ago.

Seddik was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Arturo Garcia y Garcia, the Algerian ambassador to Peru and other Foreign Ministry officials.

COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA SIGN AGREEMENT ON VEHICLE ASSEMBLY

PA132202 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Colombian and Venezuelan governments today signed an agreement on the production of automobiles in the Andean Group whereby each country may assemble the number of vehicles assigned through the Cartagena Pact.

They also agreed to establish a pool for agricultural purchases. They will request a special program for this.

A third agreement was signed for launching an agroindustrial complex that will produce 4,000 tons of sugar daily among other things.

The automobile agreement will allow Colombia to assemble three types of vehicles: vans, trucks and trailers. Venezuela will assemble automobiles, vans, and small trucks.

LAMBRUSCHINI WARNS AGAINST FORGETTING PAST

PY141914 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1110 GMT 14 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (NA)--Argentine Navy Commander in Chief Armando Lambruschini has stated that "lately there have been some groups who seem to have forgotten the past," and has indicated that the government has "legal means" to protect itself from such demonstrations, and that should "these means prove to be insufficient others will be created."

Lambruschini, who made these remarks to the magazine GENTE, which published them today, said that "many people do not understand our present status quo."

He added: "The military junta has said: 'Gentlemen, we want to improve this country.' This means that not only persons but even groups are free to agree or disagree, but no one can or should forget our past experience."

ARGENTINE, CHILEAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES INVITE POPE

PY121658 Paris AFP in Spanish 0326 GMT 12 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 11 Feb (AFP)--The Argentine Episcopal Conference today disclosed the invitation to visit Argentina and Chile that it and its Chilean counterpart had extended jointly to Pope John Paul II.

The letter sent from Buenos Aires is dated 20 December 1979 and the one sent from Santiago, Chile, 18 December. Church authorities decided, however, to disclose the news jointly with the Vatican only today.

With regard to the pope's mediation in the border dispute that the two countries are confronting in the Beagle Channel, the note states that "the pope's decision to help our countries to overcome those differences which have separated us encourages us to hope that His Holiness will make a visit to our countries."

BRIEFS

SUBVERSIVES SENTENCED--The federal court of appeals of Parana Province confirmed the sentence of 6 years in prison given to Carmen Ovalle and the 3 years and 6 months in prison given to Angel Edgardo Diaz for terrorist activities in Parana Province. [Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 13 Feb 80 p 8 PY]

SEIZURE OF EXPLOSIVES--Cordoba, 9 Feb (NA)--The III Corps has released a communique reporting that security forces carried out a raid on the headquarters of the Commission of Relatives of Missing Persons and Political Prisoners and the League for Human Rights, seizing 17 pounds of a high-power explosive and subversive literature. Two persons were arrested, but their names have not been released. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1330 GMT 9 Feb 80 PY]

SWISS LOAN--The Finance Ministry reported yesterday that Argentine ambassador to Switzerland Enrique Quintana has signed an agreement for a loan of 200 million Swiss francs. This is the most important loan granted to a Latin American country by Swiss financing enterprises, and the money can be used for any purpose that the country may deem appropriate. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Feb 80 PY]

CABINET PRESENTS COLLECTIVE RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT

PA150039 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0002 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] La Paz, 14 Feb (EFE)--All the Bolivian ministers presented their resignations to President Lidia Gueiler today to allow her to form a new government that will guarantee free and impartial elections in June.

The resigning ministers, who were sworn in to their posts on 16 November 1979, drafted a collective letter of resignation at the Foreign Ministry and delivered it to the president shortly thereafter.

It is believed that the new ministerial cabinet will be appointed in the next few hours after the president addresses the two chambers of the congress.

New Cabinet Ministers Announced

PY150223 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 0110 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[Text] [Already in progress] the following cabinet appointments:

Agriculture, Livestock and Peasant Affairs	Mario Vizcarra
Education	Carlos Carrasco
Energy and Hydrocarbons	Victor Quinteros
Finance	Augusto Cuadros
Foreign Affairs	Julio Garret
Industry and Commerce	Juan Carlos Navajas
Integration	Fernando Salazar
Interior	Jorge Selum Vaca Diez
Labor	Isaac Sandoval Rodriguez
Mining and Metallurgy	Oscar Bonifaz Gutierrez
National Defense	Air Force Gen Antonio Arnes Camacho
Planning and Coordination	Jorge Agreda
Public Health	Aida Claros
Social Welfare	Elva Djara
Transport and Communications	Hugo Velasco
Urban Development and Housing	Rene Higueras
Minister Secretary of Information	Jorge Pena

Article 2. The appointed ministers will take office effective today.

Signed in the Government Palace of La Paz on 14 February 1980 by Lidia Gueiler Tejada, interim constitutional president.

PRESIDENT GUEILER ADDRESSES NATIONAL CONGRESS

PY151128 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 14 Feb 80 PY

[Text of speech by Bolivian President Lidia Gueiler Tejada before a special session of congress in La Paz--live]

[Excerpts] [Speech already in progress] to lead the nation to its most desired goal, that is, the culmination of the democratic process. Few times in Bolivian history have we had a period like this one, filled with events that have deeply shaken our national reality, and with the uncertainty and disruption that characterize any transition to constitutional order after a long period of dictatorship and oppression.

We who share the Bolivian people's democratic, revolutionary and nationalist convictions cannot feel discouraged or frustrated over these events. In our daily effort to preserve the institutional regime, our decision to give participation to vast sectors of our pluralist society must be interpreted as a clear sign of awareness of both their unfulfilled desires and of our unwavering purpose of achieving social justice, freedom and democracy.

We have full confidence in our people's abilities and virtues. We firmly believe in their great capacity as citizens to bring the country back to a state of normal co-existence and social peace. These are new, favorable times in which most national sectors are enjoying their inalienable right to freedom.

Our current instability is not only the result of a transition from periods of dictatorship [words indistinct] which is characterized by the desire to build democracy but also by the serious political and socioeconomic imbalances we inherited and which have a major bearing on the crisis which has been heavily affecting the country.

In circumstances like this it is the duty of both rulers and people not to let themselves be dragged along by those who seek to restore autocratic systems. They must close ranks to defend, with courage and without pause, their democratic process. They should, however, put aside negative, damaging attitudes and show their determination to defend our invaluable gain: freedom.

The state of virtual bankruptcy in which we received the state's treasury is being quickly overcome. Our country's international prestige stemming from its dramatic struggle for democracy enabled us to have access to international credit and aid. We have achieved extremely staisfactory agreements with the IMF, the World Bank, the IDB, the Andean Development Corporation and the Andean Reserve Fund. Through the joint support of these institutions, which totals $261 million, we will lessen the deficit in our balance of payments, refinance the large foreign debt we inherited and allocate our financial resources to keep our country's socioeconomic progress moving at a dynamic pace. In general, my government's tasks are based on coherent, precise proposals falling within planned guidelines and specific projects to be implemented during its tenure.

Our measures for economic reorganization are part of a plan which must be continued, subject to changes and expansions which may become advisable. Furthermore, our projects are framed within a development strategy and an emergency economic plan aimed at creating conditions for sustained growth during the next few years and seeking solutions to the problems and demands of the various sectors that comprise our pluralist society. The prime objective is to consolidate democracy and public participation with freedom and social justice.

After continuous efforts we were able to reach an agreement with the armed forces. We can state now with legitimate pride and for the sake of the Bolivian people's tranquillity that the armed forces are fully committed to our democratic goals. This is of prime importance for culminating this process in free elections. We also trust that those civilian sectors that still oppose the democratic system are giving up their attempts to persuade military sectors to disrupt the country's institutional system again. I want to assure you honorable congressmen that I will again be at your side determined to face any risk in order to defend the rights and freedom enjoyed by our people today. [applause]

Reaffirming my objectives, I promoted a frank, cordial dialog with the country's most prominent leaders to reconcile our views toward achieving our goal of setting up a solid, effective system which would guarantee an electoral process free of fraud or violence.

In this exchange of views, I expressed my unwavering support for the constitutional government and for the democratic process.

It became necessary to remove the causes that undermine the government's image, both those stemming from decisions of government officials themselves and those resulting from the actions of sectors availing themselves of means that are a threat to institutional stability. It was thought that these problems could be overcome by organizing a cabinet team that would meet the interests and aspirations of the various groups that are active in the country's political and socioeconomic life. To allow the government to achieve this goal, it is necessary to appoint a cabinet which will interpret these aspirations and form a capable, honest administration.

The various sectors were consulted, and the executive branch was to appoint a cabinet which would prepare clean, impartial general elections to gain the people's confidence. The political sectors expressed their desire to entrust the electoral court with guaranteeing a clean general election by appointing well-known personalities with high moral reputations as members of the court. There were, however, sharp disagreements over the ministerial cabinet. Practical issues related to the possibility of appointing an apolitical, administrative cabinet based on a broad political unity were also discussed. Some political groups decided not to participate in the ministerial team, but most agreed to take part in it, showing their desire to contribute to consolidating the democratic government by guaranteeing a free, impartial election.

Honorable congressmen, we are only 120 days away from the date fixed for the general elections. My government has already assigned the financial resources necessary for these elections. We are now awaiting an urgent congressional decision regarding the reforms which must be introduced in the electoral law and which will better guarantee a clean election. In addition to this, in the next few days, we will appoint the members of the national electoral court so that all the administrative mechanisms for the elections can be put into operation.

Regarding my participation in the elections, I must reaffirm what I have stated so many times: my absolute impartiality as president of the republic and my unwavering decision to prevent and punish, if necessary, any intent to interfere with the elections from beginning to end. Those who suspect that my government may favor this or that candidate are demonstrating that they know little about my political morality and loyalty to the Bolivian people. I declare, with emphasis and energy, that I feel capable, that I will do what I have been doing to concentrate all my efforts to give the people the government they want.

I believe that this attitude has not only been well-understood but also extremely well-followed by all my close collaborators. I would not only be receptive, I would be immensely grateful if any national representative or any Bolivian citizen were to point out to me exactly where fraud is being committed or where public funds are being used for partisan political purposes.

You may rest assured that any such abuses would be immediately and publicly corrected. The accusation against me made by some political leaders--that my government has been infiltrated by a political group in order to benefit from the electoral process--is unjust and groundless. The entire country knows the calls I have repeatedly made to all the political forces that believe in democracy to cooperate with my government. It is also well-known that some of them have repeatedly refused these calls for reasons which have no apparent justification. Also, the insistence that a government like this stripped itself of its political personality and became technical-administrative in character is not believed.

The National Congress has given me a clear mandate: to preside, as interim president, over a government with the essential mission of consolidating the democratic and constitutional process.

I would like to say, honorable congressmen, with the greatest frankness so that my words will not conceal other intentions, that you, when you gave me this mandate, expressed your confidence in me, and I will continue to respond as a revolutionary and as a leader conscientious in performing her duties. [applause]

There is a matter which the government considers extremely important--the congressional proposal for a constituent assembly. I have taken note of the congress' repeated proposal, and I am convinced of the importance of carrying out the constitutional reform. One of the first tasks of the new cabinet will be to study this matter in detail, and I will inform the honorable congress about a decision next week.

Now that the first stage of my government has been completed, there will be a strengthening of the measures adopted. This strengthening will also guarantee the implementation of other measures which are unavoidable and should be immediately adopted. Because I was inspired by the understandable solidarity of our people and the support of this national congress, measures have been implemented to start changes in our economy, and this has broken up an unrealistic sense of well-being, creating a sudden crisis which could have been more painfully overcome with other measures than the current ones.

The apparent disagreements with the labor sectors, which have provided serious and responsible suggestions, will be completely overcome through creative dialog, a dialog which will contribute to the progressive authority of a democratic state without undermining or subordinating it.

Democracy can fail in conditions of disorder. The guarantee of its survival rests in respect for the law. Strikes and stoppages are legitimate instruments approved by law for the defense of legitimate interests. Using them irresponsibly and arbitrarily obstructs the development of a process which can always be improved.

In this second phase, with the experience acquired in the implementation of economic measures, additional steps will be adopted to alleviate the obviously adverse consequences, thus improving the situation of the majority without jeopardizing the sources of jobs and capital. But above all, in this crucial period for the democratic institutions, the fundamental point is to maintain a continuous and coordinated action among the branches of government in the areas of their competence and function. It is particularly necessary that the legislative and executive branches work together to reinforce democracy. This is all the more necessary since the mandate stems from the determination of the honorable congress. Likewise, all the political, social and economic forces have a great responsibility for the conduct of the democratic process, and inasmuch as they are loyally identified with the institutional order in their actions, they will enjoy the creative and necessary conditions for safeguarding their legitimate interests.

Before I conclude, I want to express publicly my recognition of and gratitude to all the members of the cabinet who worked with me in the first phase which, although arduous and difficult, was successful. I am convinced that their circumstantial departure from the tasks of government will not mean that they will abandon the permanent struggle to defend democracy. It would be painful if the freedom and democracy attained with so much sacrifice by the Bolivian people were lost in an unbridled and irrational race of base ambitions spurred by factional interests.

In this decisive period for the country, on this true path leading to the construction of a democratic order which has been chosen by the most authentic popular forces of our society, I will continue to meet the challenges of the time, imparting to the management of the government an attitude for dialog and understanding as instruments to solve problems and eliminate the practice of responding to violence with violence.

I am very optimistic and, although I know we still have to face complex problems and situations, I still feel encouraged by the responsibility of the government in securing with determination, prudence and calm the future of the country and the integrity of the democratic process at any cost. Thank you. [applause]

BOMB EXPLODES FOLLOWING SWEARING-IN OF CABINET

PA150357 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0329 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] La Paz, 14 Feb (LATIN)--A bomb exploded tonight at a local radio station destroying the studios, according to police reports.

Unidentified persons at 2100 (0100 GMT) placed a dynamite charge at the doors of the "Altiplano" radio studios in downtown La Paz.

The explosion occurred a few minutes after President Lidia Gueiler--overcoming her first cabinet crisis posed by her cabinet's resignation--swore in the new cabinet at Government Palace.

Interior Minister Jorge Selum Vaca Diez had to leave the Government Palace hurriedly to go to the radio station. No casualties were reported.

According to police reports, however, the explosion caused considerable damage.

MILITARY OFFICER CRITICIZES LABOR LEADER LECHIN

PY141239 Paris AFP in Spanish 0053 GMT 14 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 13 Feb (AFP)--Col Ariel Coca, commander of the military aviation school, today harshly criticized Juan Lechin, top leader of the Bolivian Labor Central (COB).

Colonel Coca condemned the attitude of the labor leader, "Who has always lived at the cost of the workers without having any kind of profession and behaves like a real tyrant of the national union movement."

Colonel Coca stressed the armed forces' support of the Bolivian democratic process and emphasized that "Lechin is a bad Bolivian because he has never pursued anything but his own interests."

Lechin had recently criticized leaders and officers of the armed forces. Never before, in the recent past, had a high ranking military officer so harshly criticized the top COB leader.

BRIEFS

COST OF LIVING--The National Statistics Institute has published a report on consumer price increases from 1972 until the end of 1979. The cost of living increase during the period was 474.48 percent. During the month of December 1979 alone, the figure was close to 150 percent. [La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1115 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY]

FRG OFFICIAL VISITS--President Gueiler received this morning (Albin Bruck), FRG under secretary of the Economic Cooperation Ministry and head of the FRG mission that has been visiting Bolivia since the beginning of February. He reported to President Gueiler that his mission is studying the possibility of increasing FRG technical and economic cooperation with Bolivia. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Feb 80 PY]

AGRICULTURE MINISTER REPORTS ON SOYBEAN EXPORTS

PY141559 Paris AFP in Spanish 0416 GMT 14 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 13 Feb (AFP)--The Brazilian agriculture minister reported here today that Brazil has made available for export an initial quota of 1 million tons of soybeans, 150,000 tons of soybean oil and 3 million tons of soybean flour. He added that additional export quotas will be authorized in the next few months if the present harvest yields the 15 million tons that are anticipated. If the harvest yields that amount, Brazil will have an exportable surplus estimated at 1.5 million tons of soybeans: 980,000 tons of soybean oil and 7 million tons of soybean flour.

ARAB REPRESENTATIVES PROTEST TV SERIES

PY141320 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRAZIL in Portuguese 13 Feb 80 p 1 PY

[Text] Ambassadors and charges d'affaires representing Saudi Arabia, Syria, Pakistan, Iran and the Arab League have presented a formal protest to Itamaraty over the showing on the O GLOBO televison network of the TV series "The Pirates" [O MACHAO], considered to be "offensive to the most basic Arab principles."

Based on the book of the same name by Harold Robbins, the fifth edition of which has been sold out in Brazil, the TV series, according to the Arab diplomatic representatives, is among the works "clearly engaged in creating an image unfavorable to Muslims and Islam among the Brazilian people." They feel that "The Pirates" shows Muslims as men of "doubtful character" in their religion and morals.

VENEZUELAN EFFORT TO SETTLE BORDER AREA SEEN

PY131201 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Feb 80 p 7 PY

[Excerpt] Official sources reported yesterday that Venezuela will build new military forts along the border with Brazil and establish centers where families can get technical and economic aid.

The [Venezuelan] newspaper EL UNIVERSAL has published a report according to which Acting Defense Minister Tomas Abreu stated that Fort Roraima will be built in Santa Elena de Uairen on the Venezuelan-Brazilian border and that "other similar units" will be built soon afterwards. Abreu also emphasized that there are totally unprotected border areas.

With regard to reports that Venezuelan Indians had been recruited by the Brazilian Army, the minister said that an investigation has been launched to find out whether these reports are true.

BRIEFS

BANK INTEREST RATES--Planning Minister Delfim Neto asked bankers yesterday not to change interest rates until next May so as not to endanger the government's policy aimed at curbing inflation. The minister pleaded with the bankers to oblige "even if they have to operate in the red." [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 12 Feb 80 p 1 PY]

BEEF PURCHASE BOYCOTT--Housewives in 11 cities around the country have joined a beef purchase boycott which began 10 days ago. The boycott movement has so far spread to the cities of Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Curitiba, Porto Alegre, Victoria, Rio de Janeiro, Recife, Fortaleza, Maceio, Piracicaba and Erexim. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 13 Feb 80 p 7 PY]

MEXICO REPORTEDLY TO OPEN CONSULATE IN SANTIAGO

PY141447 Paris AFP in Spanish 0305 GMT 14 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 14 Feb (AFP)--According to press reports, Mexico will announce shortly that it will establish a consular office in Santiago. By doing so it will end the period of cool relations that began 6 years ago. The same sources add that Chile is about to take another important step forward in its foreign relations.

Mexico broke diplomatic relations with Chile in November 1974. It had withdrawn its ambassador at the end of 1973 at the time of the military coup that ousted constitutional President Salvador Allende. Since then, any diplomatic matters involving the two countires have been negotiated through Brazil. This diplomatic rupture, however, did not hinder the development of bilateral trade, which has been constantly increasing in the last few years.

It was reported here that the establishment of a Mexican Consulate in Santiago and a Chilean Consulate in Mexico may help to strengthen these commercial ties and also lead to the establishment of diplomatic contacts.

Mexico Denies Report

PA142052 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2020 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 14 Feb (LATIN)--The Foreign Ministry today "flatly" denied rumors that Mexico would shortly reestablish consular relations with Chile.

In a communique delivered to LATIN, the Mexican Foreign Ministry said that the rumors spread by international news agencies "are shrouded in anonymity."

According to press dispatches from Santiago, Mexico was to announce shortly the restablishment of consular relations to put an end to a 6-year break.

UNION CONFEDERATION HOLDS CLANDESTINE MEETING

PY141315 Paris AFP in Spanish 0012 GMT 14 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 13 Feb (AFP)--It was learned today that the outlawed Chilean Trade Union Confederation (CUTCH) held a clandestine meeting in Chile to commemorate its 27th anniversary.

A high-ranking government official said that the Interior Ministry is investigating the holding of this "unauthorized" meeting.

The CUTCH, which allegedly represented more than 1 million workers grouped in unions and federations, was dissolved 6 years ago after the overthrow of the late Socialist president, Salvador Allende, who was replaced by the military junta headed by General Augusto Pinochet. According to labor sources, this is the first known occasion that the CUTCH has held a clandestine meeting since it created a foreign committee that holds regular sessions abroad, usually in France.

According to the information available to the government, which it is now examining, present at the meeting were Clotario Blest, the 80-year old union leader who is the founder of the CUTCH and its first president, lawyer Eduardo Long Alessandri and other leaders. At the meeting, according to some sources, the leaders reviewed the activities of the CUTCH, criticized the present government's policies and issued an appeal "for the unity of the working class."

GUERRILLAS ATTEMPT TO HALT ELECTORAL PROCESS

PA132232 Paris AFP in Spanish 2209 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[By Farid Camel]

[Text] Bogota, 12 Feb (AFP)--Observers said here today that Colombian guerrillas have called a halt to their armed activities, and, from their mountain hideouts, shown interest in the campaign leading to the March elections to the national councils and assemblies.

According to reports under investigation by high military commands, a new front, allegedly elements from the Castroite National Liberation Army [ELN], emerged Monday from the Putumayo region in southern Colombia to influence the elections. It was reported that 60 men and 2 women, well-armed and wearing regular army uniforms, rounded up the inhabitants in several towns in Putumayo and advised them to abstain from voting in the elections.

During their speeches, the guerrillas launched violent attacks on the government and later withdrew into the mountains without harming the surprised peasants. This guerrilla operation came after the government charged that guerrilla groups were threatening to kill the peasants if they went to the polls.

However, the government statements were refuted by the latest issue of RESISTENCIA, organ of the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC], which the armed forces' high commands claim is the armed fist of the Colombian Communist Party.

In an article published in the underground RESISTENCIA, Manuel Marulanda, alias Tirofijo, top FARC chief, asked the people to vote for a recently-created democratic front which comprises extreme left, populist and dissident liberal sectors. The communique notes that under no circumstances should the people vote for candidates of the traditional Liberal and Conservative parties. According to the FARC, this would be a serious error.

This attitude contrasts with the silence of the pro-Beijing Popular Liberation Army [EPL] and the M-19, which has been hurt by the mortal blows of the Colombian armed forces intelligence services.

On the other hand, the rebel truce was announced after official reports stated that many guerrillas were infiltrating the army and later escaping, with their weapons and ammunition, into the mountains. This infiltration is serious in Neiva, capital of Huila Department, where several guerrillas enlisted recently and deserted some time later.

UK CARGO SHIP ATTACKED IN PACIFIC BY 'PIRATES'

PA140322 Paris AFP in Spanish 0114 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Buenaventura, (Colombia), 13 Feb (AFP)--The British ship Icelu was attacked by pirates near here in the Pacific Ocean and its boatswain was seriously wounded, officials announced today. The pirates boarded the Icelu, which was carrying 30,000 tons of Canadian wheat, and overcame its 20 crewmembers with modern automatic weapons. The pirates stole sophisticated navigation equipment and other supplies valued at more than $100,000. Naval authorities gave immediate medical treatment to the wounded seaman, whose name was not revealed, and started an intense search of the area for the pirates, who were in five motorboats. The attack occurred while the British ship awaited the arrival of the pilot to enter Buenaventura Bay.

QUITO CITIZENS STAGE PROTEST MARCH ON CONGRESS

PA141612 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] The great peoples march to Congress held by Quito's inhabitants to demand an increase in the city's budget can be described as a popular feast, an event of civic enthusiasm and polemics that turned into a row.

Thousands of Quito inhabitants gathered in the afternoon at San Francisco Square in answer to a summons from the Federation of Quito Districts. The purpose of this was to pressure the plenum of the standing legislative committees into reconsidering a decision denying a 0.5 percent increase in the national budget appropriations for Quito.

Thousands of Quito inhabitants dressed up and filled themselves with civic concern as they marched with hundreds of small, makeshift white flags on [word indistinct] and placards through the streets in the direction of Congress.

Mayor Alvaro Perez, Queen Francisca I [presumably carnival queen] and neighborhood leaders spoke at the square. They stressed the capital's right to have sufficient income to meet its obligations and to provide and improve services in its various districts. They also claimed discrimination against Quito and the return of regionalism which was thought to have been overcome. Present at the event were the mayor of Guayaquil, legislators from Pichincha, national legislators and personalities from the entire country who endorsed the capital's demands.

The march reached the legislative palace full of cheer and dancing. However, it was met with sticks by the legislative escort of [Congress president] Asaad Bucaram and the national police, who were following orders from the chief of parliament. The repression aroused the wrath of the people and not surprisingly drew indignation from legislators for Pichincha Province, who asked Bucaram to allow the demonstrators to enter the gallery area of Congress.

The temperamental Bucaram refused to receive the more than 40 people, whereupon the legislators of the Democratic Left and Popular Democracy protested, alleging discrimination on his part. Bucaram rejected the protest and irked the legislators, who accused him of being a regionalist and a despicable individual. Obviously, Bucaram did not remain silent. He described them as clownish, insolent, ill-mannered and despicable. This included Manuel Cordoba, Julio Cesar Trujillo and Alejandro Carrion Perez, among others.

After things went back to normal, the Quito mayor and the Pichincha prefect spoke to demand more funds for the city. Perez stressed that the people of Quito demand from Congress the aid it needs, warning that they will not accept further discrimination from Bucaram.

POLITICIANS DISCUSS CHANGES BY ROLDOS GOVERNMENT

PA142010 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The change, the frustrating change. The force of change, an aggressive slogan which committed the present rulers to an historical perspective and a popular exigency, is slowly becoming a controversial and frustrating factor.

Some feel the change should have been implemented at the beginning of the democratic regime, with tangible measures and achievements. Others feel change is a process, designed in stages, to perform a great national task. Some ask for patience and others demand action and even more policy statements from the government regarding specific problems faced by the system.

Radio Quito explored the topic, source of popular expectations and national disillusionment. To what extent is our restored democracy allowing the changes to take place? What time limit should be set to achieve this campaign promise?

The people's patience has a limit, says Pichincha Deputy Manuel Cordoba Galarza. The year 1980 presupposes a challenge for President Roldos' administration.

Have any changes been introduced, asks Camilo Gallegos of the Liberal Party. The indiscriminate use of magic promises filled people with illusions. They are demanding the vaunted [word indistinct]. What changes were or are politically feasible? Gallegos argues the following:

[Begin Gallegos recording] The second fundamental change, in addition to that of democratic stabilization after 10 years of dictatorship and of many dictatorships, was that of constitution permanence. That is why despite the need which has arisen at a given time, we have reached the conclusion that it is advisable to live with the present constitution and to speak of constitutional amendments in especially dire circumstances.

The other change was that of stopping administrative wrongdoing. Ecuador does not lack laws or new taxes. What it needs is its laws to be enforced. It needs taxes to be collected, fiscal revenues to be increased. This is accomplished through administrative discipline. Unfortunately, as the entire country knows, we have not had this. There is no administrative coordination. We are witnessing a split in the ruling party. This has actually led to confusion which is giving rise to serious situations in the country. I think that the situation is delicate but not anguishing. [end recording]

Marco Proano Maya, deputy for Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP], feels there will always be time for change.

[Begin Proano recording] More important than the time is to know what has to be done to make the change a reality. I feel when one speaks in political terms and when a political party or an electoral ticket reaches power, it must govern and those who lose must have the goal of helping to govern. In the final analysis, the country is what matters, because the changes will not be possible without a great effort on the part of Ecuadoreans to make the changes. [end recording]

Popular representative Wilfrido Lucero feels the government is really interested in making the social change through sensible stages and without peremptory deadlines.

The Broad Leftist Front, through Jorge Chiriboga, its legislative representative, advocates a political definition from Roldos vis-a-vis the nation's problems--a presidential definition about redistribution of income and a clear position regarding the agrarian sector, in other words, the adoption of decisions about the interests of the great oligarchy and the people who are prevented from benefiting from the nation's wealth.

FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR'S 'STYLE' CRITICIZED

FY141858 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 14 Feb 80 p 12 FY

[Commentary entitled: "Counterproductive Diplomatic Styles," by Antonio Salum Flecha, director of the Diplomatic and Consular Academy]

[Text] The return of U.S. Ambassador Robert White to his country at the end of his tour in Paraguay has provided food for all kinds of speculations in political, diplomatic and journalistic circles that are unprecedented in Asuncion. The reasons for this are undoubtedly found in the controversial personality of the diplomat, who practiced a style never known to us before, one which is hardly acceptable at a time when the idea of interdependence among peoples is gaining strength every day.

There is much to be said about Robert White, because the 2 years during which he carried out his diplomatic functions among us were filled with controversial situations which aroused fierce polemics within the political sector and cautious criticism within his own circles. That is exactly what we would have wanted to avoid had we been in his shoes, as we have learned over the course of time and as we now teach at the diplomatic and consular academy. Nevertheless, it is sufficient to discuss only his diplomatic activity on the eve of his final departure because, as expected, this also aroused polemics in several sectors.

The official report on his transfer to El Salvador, where he must carry out identical functions, was inexplicably delayed until the last moment by the U.S. Embassy, although everyone here was aware of it through reports coming from the State Department itself. The same thing happened with his farewell party, which coincided with the reception he gave for Mr. Eaton, state department deputy assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, so that those who came to greet the latter, were also coming to bid farewell to the ambassador. But certainly, since the limited invitations were carefully issued, there were those who really enjoyed receiving them and others who received them grudgingly. And there was even a group of legislators who rejected invitations because they had not been asked to hold private talks with Mr. Eaton similar to those he held with members of the National Agreement during a working lunch. The blame for this, however, which was gratuitously attributed to Eaton, was incorrectly placed, because the agenda Eaton followed in Asuncion was prepared by Ambassador White, who also drew up the list of persons invited. It was obviously to be expected, then, that he would give preference to his personal friends, most of whom belong to the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party].

In the interviews which Robert White granted to ABC COLOR and LA TRIBUNA on the occasion of his enigmatic withdrawal from the country, he repeatedly stated that he had merely fulfilled instructions received from the State Department and that any other ambassador would have done the same. In this regard we believe that his instructions must have been of a general nature and could hardly have contained specific details on how to behave on those occasions which are by now too well known to be rehashed once again. This is why at the beginning of this commentary we talked about style, the style which unleashed polemics and gave rise to incidents lamented by some and praised by others and which earned him the description of friend or foe as the case may be. This, in our opinion, could have been avoided if only he would have taken care to be more tactful in handling the issues which concerned him and avoided getting so openly involved in the domestic affairs of our country, which he seemed to regard with contempt, not only because of the incidents in which he was involved but also because of the statements he made, sometimes in a warning and other times in a contemptuous tone.

The thing is that Robert White's STYLE cast aside all the diplomatic methods and practices known to us, including seeking the friendship, if not of government officials, at least of respectable cultural and social circles of the country. He, on the contrary, established contacts with the opposition, especially with the PLRA, which seemed to deserve his utmost attention. He made special efforts to obtain for its members special treatment at the State Department and representative U.S. entities. This statement is based on the high rank of the government officials with whom PLRA members met when they traveled to Washington at the invitation of the State Department, compared to those who received official Paraguayan representatives. Thus, it would seem that Robert White lacked a sense of balance between the treatment given to our politicians and the desire to maintain the traditional friendship between his country and Paraguay.

Regarding the much-vaunted instructions, the matter is reduced to the procedures which have been used, the untimeliness of certain visits, the nature of some of his public statements and the aggressiveness of some phrases. If there were something to communicate to the host government, the normal channels existing between the embassy and the Foreign Ministry should have been used. In other words, discretion, which is always more effective and less provocative, should have been employed. Publicity about a certain position or a feeling of displeasure sometimes has an adverse effect because of the reaction it elicits from the public here. In other words, Robert White could have transmitted any State Department reaction to an action of the host government using the customary discretion and avoiding the impression that his public interventions were admonishing the government and humiliating the people.

It would thus be desirable for Robert White's successor to come to Paraguay filled with a new spirit, that of promoting relations between the two countries and putting them back on the road of friendship and cooperation that existed earlier--relations based on respect for the characteristics, sovereignty and independence of states; on the legal equality among them; on nonintervention in the internal and external affairs of others; and on the self-determination of peoples. Paraguay is interested in and desires cooperation with the United States, the leader of the Western world, particularly under the present circumstances, in which it is more necessary than ever to maintain cohesion among the nations which reject totalitarianism and repudiate aggression.

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. VIEWS BILATERAL RELATIONS

PA142130 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 2 Feb 80 p 1 PA

[Text] The Peruvian ambassador to the United States, Alfonso Arias Schreiber, revealed that the two countries had signed a nuclear cooperation agreement in Washington. A higher level pact will be signed later this year once the project is approved by officials of the two countries.

The Peruvian diplomat made this statement at the airport shortly after his arrival from Washington. He was returning to Peru for ordinary consultations at the Foreign Ministry.

The project calls for an intensive exchange of information and high-level technicians on nuclear matters.

Although it is true that Peru is in the primary stage in nuclear matters, this project should be a very positive one, because it allows for an accelerated development of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful uses, he added.

He said that the agreement is the consequence of positive U.S.-Peruvian cooperation in various fields, especially in the financial field where it has been more evident. A similar situation exists in the technological field.

He also explained that his consultations at the Foreign Ministry will deal with bilateral matters and with Peru's participation in the Law of the Sea Conference.

He emphasized that relations between the two countries are at a very good level, just as they were during the term of former Ambassador Carlos Garcia Bedoya.

Peru Will Find Its Path: Elections

Arias Schreiber emphasized that there is in the United States a great "interest, expectation and confidence" in the Peruvian electoral process. There is the hope at all levels that Peru will find its path, in accordance with the will of the people.

He emphasized that Peruvians are respectful of the right of asylum, but, above all, it is a matter of determining the basis for granting asylum and the reasons to justify it.

He said that there are times when it is not justified, as in the case of persons who seek asylum without being involved in political events or persecuted in any way.

PARTIES GRANTED RADIO, TV, NEWSPAPER SPACE

PY131422 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpt] The government has granted free radio, TV and newspaper space to political parties, independent groups, alliances and independent candidates legally and finally registered at the national electoral court. This space will be available between 17 March and 16 May of this year. This has been implemented by Decree No 22,881, which was approved by the cabinet yesterday. In order to (?disseminate) the ideas and programs of the participants in the general elections, the use of radio, TV and newspaper space will be exercised by all participating parties on the basis of cooperation, fairness and equality. Electoral propaganda will not be allowed to jeopardize the dignity of individuals or institutions or to use words or remarks which could be considered immoral or contrary to proper behavior. Neither will this propaganda be allowed to incite violence or the disruption of social order or to violate the mutual respect among the participants. The political groups which fail to comply with these regulations will be punished with fines of no less than [figure indistinct] soles.

IRAN HIRES PROMINENT ATTORNEY FOR SHAH EXTRADITION CASE

PA150237 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] In Panama it has been reported that the Government of Iran has appointed Juan Materno Vasquez, a former president of the Supreme Court of Justice, as its adviser and representative in Panama for matters related to the extradition of the shah.

Juan Materno Vasquez, a well-known Panamanian attorney, will advise the Iranian Foreign Ministry on the legal requirements that the extradition request, that has to be presented within a month, must fill.

Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh has been in touch with the Panamanian attorney, who is also a former government and justice minister and a former presidency minister, to put him in charge of the extradition process to be initiated soon.

SALVADORANS IN PANAMA RELEASED AS LP-28 VACATES EMBASSY

PA150058 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Panamanian Embassy in El Salvador, which was occupied yesterday by the 28 February People's Leagues [LP-28], was vacated this afternoon by the members of that leftist group, after a news conference in which Ambassador David Pere and three LP-28 members participated.

The evacuation of the embassy was precipitated by the arrest last night in Panama of several leaders of the LP-28 and of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] who were attending a political meeting.

The occupiers of the Panamanian Embassy in San Salvador said their action was not an occupation but an opportunity for them to talk with the Panamanian diplomat and ask his intervention to have Salvadoran authorities investigate the whereabouts of some LP-28 members who have disappeared.

Panamanian Ambassador David Pere declined to comment on the affair. The occupiers of the Panamanian Embassy in San Salvador left in a bus accompanied by the counselor of the Panamanian mission, Maria Teresa Barraza.

The six Salvadoran citizens who were arrested last night during an act of solidarity with their people in our capital were released at noon today as part of the agreement for the evacuation of our embassy in San Salvador. The members of the LP-28, the BPR and the United Popular Action Front who were released today were Alva Marisol Galindo, Manuel Gerber, Marco Portillo, Alvaro Castillo, Juan Benjamin Lopez and Raul Cuellar.

Regarding the reasons for their arrest, Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Rodriguez said the following to Televisora Nacional

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Minister, what position has the Panamanian Government taken regarding the occupation of our embassy in El Salvador?

[Answer] The Government of the Republic of Panama considers this to be an extremely regrettable matter in view of the efforts which we have been making to maintain the best relations between El Salvador and Panama and even our efforts to contribute to the extent of our abilities to the establishment of a truly democratic climate in El Salvador.

We also regret this action because it violates our sovereignty and the sacred principle of the extraterritoriality of our embassies.

Just as we did not look favorably on the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, we could look even less favorably on the occupation of our embassy. In the future this might oblige us, in the case of El Salvador, to take more serious preventive measures to avoid a repetition of situations of this kind.

We hope not to find ourselves in a similar situation in any other country in the world. I do not know how this can contribute to the solution of local problems in those countries. The occupation of an embassy...[does not complete sentence] I do not know of any case in which an occupation has solved the internal problems of those countries. In fact not even the political objectives have been achieved. On the contrary they have created a very abnormal situation as regards the safety of the personnel who are residing in another country to fulfill a very specific mission and this hinders the mechanisms for normal relations among the world's countries.

[Question] While efforts have been hurriedly made in the diplomatic sphere to solve the crisis in less than 24 hours, something interesting and unprecedented happened last night regarding a group of Salvadorans who were in Panama for a conference of solidarity with the Salvadoran people. I refer to their arrest by the National Guard. We would like to have an official explanation, which has not been given so far, regarding those arrests, whether or not they were ordered by the executive and so forth.

[Answer] Those were preventive measures by the police. Those persons belong to the groups which were occupying our embassy and our security forces do not know exactly what their mission is here. Apparently they came to a peaceful meeting, but in a situation of this type, it is better to take preventive action than to be sorry later.

In addition it is obvious that in our country, no one has looked on that action of the political forces, the occupation of the embassy, with sympathy. Obviously, the Salvadorans could be the object of reprisals by our people. Therefore, to avoid situations of one or another kind, they were taken into preventive custody.

[Question] It was stated last night, Mr Minister, that this arrest, which you describe as preventive, could set a delicate precedent in the area of international relations, in the application of measures by governments in kidnapings, the occupation of embassies, or acts of that kind. What can you, as minister of government and a lawyer, say about this?

[Answer] I do not feel that this constitutes any precedent. It is a normal police measure in any country where abnormal acts are taking place that could lead to unforeseeable situations of a police nature.

[Question] Mr Minister, thank you for your statements to Televisora Nacional.

[Answer] You are welcome.

PRESIDENT ROYO MEETS WITH U.S. DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY

PA141924 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] President Royo has received a courtesy visit of U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Graham Claytor who is visiting Panama on matters related with his high post and to get firsthand information on the activities concerning the defense of the Panama Canal.

The president and his guest discussed subjects dealing with the canal. President Royo was accompanied by Vice President De la Espriella while the defense under secretary was accompanied by Lt Gen [name indistinct] and Ambassador Ambler Moss.

PRESIDENT ROYO, WIFE, LEAVE FOR U.S. VISIT

PA150036 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] President Aristides Royo and Mrs Royo left today for the United States. Housing Minister Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque is accompanying the president on his trip. President Royo flew to Houston, Texas.

Observers in Panama believe that President Royo will make use of the carnival festivities to undergo a routine medical checkup at one of Houston's famous hospitals.

Diplomatic sources, however, said that President Royo was expected in the United States on a private visit.

TEACHERS STAGE DEMONSTRATION, DEMAND RESIGNATION OF MINISTER

PA130308 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] Hundreds of teachers filled Justo Arosemena Avenue this morning in front of the Education Ministry to express their rejection of the high cost of living and what they described as the constant government violation of the agreements reached last year after the long teachers strike.

The demonstrators chanted antigovernment slogans and used megaphones and banners to demand the resignation of the education minister and the teachers who work at the ministry, accusing them of having been appointed by him.

The crisis between the government and the teachers seems to have taken a new turn. The teachers and professors added a new complaint to their list by demanding that Education Minister Gustavo Garcia de Paredes resign.

Later the teachers marched down Justo Arosemena Avenue to Porras Plaza, where the leaders reached an agreement with the National Guard whereby they would board buses and other vehicles to go to Vista Hermosa to stage another demonstration, this time against several newspapers.

After the picketing at the Education Ministry, the teachers went to the EDITORA RENOVACION installations. They stood outside the building, sang the teachers anthem and held a rally.

The protest was witnessed by the papers' editors, newsmen and executive personnel and it was staged without any incidents.

Riot units of the National Guard remained in the area throughout the demonstrations to prevent any disorders.

Several leaders of the demonstrators spoke at the rally, expressing their views on the country's situation and the way the press reports it. They also expressed their rejection of the editorial line of the newspapers. The picketing lasted 1 hour. The teachers left as they had arrived, based on the agreement reached with the National Guard officers.

COSTA RICA

MORE CUBAN REFUGEES ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO U.S.

PA141415 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Costa Rican Government was notified yesterday that the United States has granted authorization for more than 200 of the 350 Cubans who are in Costa Rica to travel to the United States as residents. However, the U.S. authorities have expressed concern over the possible arrival of more refugees wishing to reside in the United States.

The U.S. Government will not grant any more visas to Cuban refugees, according to information given to the Costa Rican Government yesterday. However, the commitment to accept as residents the remaining 62 political prisoners and their relatives of the group of 138 whose release was negotiated by President Carazo was reiterated. The 250 Cubans who will travel to the United States will receive the authorization in the next 2 weeks, a U.S. Embassy official indicated.

COMMENTARY HITS U.S. REJECTION OF LOAN FOR NICARAGUA

PA141744 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We express our protest over the announcement that U.S. Congressmen will reject a loan to the Nicaraguan Government. We believe in the Nicaraguan Government. We have faith in the development of the Nicaraguan revolution. We are convinced that the Sandinist regime struggles for a better Nicaragua for the Nicaraguans. It cannot be possible that the United States listens to the voices of the hypocrites and that it rejects loans which are urgent. The U.S. Congress is full of Somozists and enemies of democracy and freedom.

EL SALVADOR

SPANISH EMBASSY CRISIS REPORTAGE CONTINUES

Plan To Evacuate 15 February

PA150255 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[By Rosendo Majano]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--A spokesman for the leftist 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28) told ACAN-EFE on Thursday evening that members of the group who have been occupying the Spanish Embassy in San Salvador for the past 10 days will evacuate the embassy on Friday morning.

Carlos Argueta, leader of the occupation of the Spanish Embassy in this capital, said the LP-28 had been promised the release, tomorrow, of the 19 LP-28 activists who were arrested on 12 February during an operation to clear the headquarters of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC). In that operation five leftists and one policeman were killed.

Argueta told this correspondent that the occupation is just about over, depending on the government's fulfillment of its promise to release the 19 LP-28 comrades tomorrow.

Four minors who were arrested during the violence at the PDC headquarters were released to their parents yesterday.

The original demand had been the release of 16 leftists arrested for acts against the authorities. Most of them, except for five whose whereabouts are unknown, were released by the courts which tried them.

Through the ambassadors of Italy, Mexico and Ecuador, the leagues have already obtained a promise that the case of these five will be investigated and those responsible for their disappearance punished.

Since Monday there has been talk about a prompt solution to the problem, but the negotiations were complicated with the capture of the LP-28 activists who had occupied the PDC headquarters.

This afternoon the mediators and Pedro Bermejo, official in charge of Latin American affairs of the Spanish Foreign Ministry, obtained the leagues' promise that they would not increase their demands "no matter what happens in the country."

Spanish Embassy officials Ranero and De la Helguera told ACAN-EFE tonight that they feel "somewhat relieved" with the approaching end to their captivity.

Two More Hostages Released

PA150204 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0150 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The leftist 28 February People's League (PL-28) tonight at 1930 (0130 GMT) released two of the four hostages they were holding at the Spanish Embassy here.

The leftists released Sebastian Hernandez and Francisco Nunez, Spaniards employed by the Spanish "Agroman" firm here. The firm is building a 32-km long highway connecting the capital city with the new "El Salvador" airport.

Juan Carlos de Ranero, charge d'affaires, and Manuel de la Helguera, counselor of the Spanish Embassy here, are the only two hostages left in the embassy.

LP-28 VACATES PANAMANIAN EMBASSY 14 FEBRUARY

PA141708 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1634 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Panamanian Embassy in San Salvador will be vacated at 1200 (1800 GMT) today, a spokesman for the 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28) has announced.

The "leagues" occupied the Panamanian diplomatic mission at noon Wednesday to protest the death of one of their leaders in an armed confrontation with the authorities and to demand the release of some 20 LP-28 members.

The LP-28 members had been arrested by the authorities while the headquarters of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] were being vacated Tuesday. Five members of LP-28 died at the time.

The spokesman for the leagues told the YSU radio network of San Salvador that the occupation was solely intended to "call attention to El Salvador's problems" and there was no sense in continuing the occupation after achieving the objective.

It is believed, however, that the decision to vacate the Panamanian Embassy was prompted by the arrest last night in Panama of Marisol Galindo and Manuel Herbert, members of the LP-28 national leadership.

Galindo and Herbert went to Panama to participate in a political event organized by a Panamanian committee of solidarity with El Salvador.

The Panamanian authorities said the arrest sought to prevent harm to the hostages if the LP-28's demands were not met by the government.

More on Withdrawal

PA142230 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2210 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador--About 25 activists of the 28 February People's Leagues today withdrew peacefully from the Panamanian Embassy which they began occupying yesterday. Their three hostages were freed unharmed.

One of the activists before leaving said Ambassador David Pere Ramos had agreed to present their demands to the Salvadoran Government. Another group of the same leftist organization is still occupying the Spanish Embassy and there have been indications of a new conflict within the civilian-military government junta.

PCES LEADER SAYS U.S.-BACKED REFORM FAILS

PA142132 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] A leader of the Communist Party of El Salvador [PCES] has charged that the United States is trying to plunge the country into a bloodbath. He said that the country has two options: a democratic and popular transformation, or fascism. Wearing a hood to avert ifentification, the Salvadoran communist leader said that the country's oligarchy is blocking any possibility for change in the socioeconomic structure.

He made the statements in a small office in the presence of several foreign correspondents. He added that the reformist maneuver sponsored by the United States has failed in El Salvador; a country where there can be no revolutionary change unless it is carried out through armed struggle.

BPR GROUPS TAKE OVER DEVELOPMENT BANK, HOLD HOSTAGES

PA141815 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1752 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Leftwing militants occupied the office of the Agriculture and Livestock Development Bank in downtown San Salvador at 1100 today.

About 600 bank employees were taken hostage by the occupiers in their second bid to take over the building in the past 24 hours.

The building was occupied by the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation and Farmworkers' Union members. Both groups belong to the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR).

The bank is the state agency that promotes and funnels credit to agricultural cooperatives and small producers.

The occupiers want a reduction in the price of agriculture and livestock production materials and lower interest on bank loans.

The BPR has been holding 500 employees hostage at the Waterworks and Sewers Office since yesterday at 1100.

BPR SEIZES FARM DEVELOPMENT BANK BRANCH IN USULUTAN

PA141934 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1906 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Usulutan, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Members of the leftist Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] at noon today seized the branch office of the Farming Development Bank in this city, 110 km east of San Salvador.

There are some 30 hostages including bank employees and visitors in the office. The main offices of this state autonomous organization which promotes the progress of medium and small farmers have also been occupied in the capital by members of the Salvadoran Christian Peasant Federation and the Union of Farmworkers, who are holding some 600 persons hostage. They are demanding a decrease in the price of farming materials and other benefits for rural workers.

BPR GROUP OCCUPIES WATERWORKS OFFICES

PA140052 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] As we reported earlier, the central offices of the National Waterworks and Sewers Administration have been occupied by a group of youths who unexpectedly entered these offices, located in downtown San Salvador.

We are now in the downtown area and have learned that the youths have identified themselves as members of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc's popular committees.

According to them, they are occupying the offices to protest yesterday's incidents, when a demonstration in the main streets of San Salvador was dispersed with bullets and several people were killed.

According to the reports we received, several shots were heard before the offices were occupied.

GUNMEN FACE TROOPS, TANKS IN SAN MARCOS

PA140144 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1060 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] The action in the town of San Marcos is continuing. Heavily-armed persons there in civilian clothes have entrenched themselves. Troops, supported by light tanks and helicopters, are observing the area from a distance. Drivers coming in from the new airport have been forced to take the highway under construction to avoid San Marcos.

We have been informed that similar situations have arisen in Apopa and Mexicanos, with barricades being erected by elements of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc.

Sources at the 28 February People's Leagues have reported that yesterday during the clearing of the headquarters of the Christian Democratic Party, more than 23 of its militants were arrested.

ARMY PATROL KILLS FOUR GUERRILAS NEAR ZACATECOLUCA

PA150314 Paris AFP in Spanish 2118 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Feb (AFP)--It has beed officially announced that four guerrillas were killed today during a confrontation with a military unit on the outskirts of the city of Zacatecoluca, some 70 km southeast of San Salvador.

According to military reports a patrol from the Salvadoran Armed Forces Engineers Instruction Center, engaged in tracking operations on the outskirts of Zacatecoluca, was attacked by a guerrilla unit, resulting in an exchange of fire.

The shooting led to the deaths of four youths who have not been identified and whose political affiliation is also unknown. The official report states that the army unit sustained no casualties.

TEACHER KILLED, UNION DELCARES STRIKE

PA140023 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Prof Roque Neftali Rodriguez was assassinated this morning in the city of Cojutepeque. According to reports received by this radio station, the professor was riddled with bullets by several unidentified persons traveling in a brown car.

The attack took place as the professor was on his way to the institution where he was employed. He was an active member of the 21 June Salvadoran National Teachers Association (ANDES).

In view of this new attack against the teachers, ANDES will delcare a strike that will start tomorrow and last through Friday.

FOUR LEFTIST DEMONSTRATIONS END PEACEFULLY

PA142035 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1929 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Four demonstrations passed through this city's main streets at noon today without incidents of any kind.

The leftist demonstrations ended shortly before 1300. The demonstrators returned to their homes or the offices of the Salvadoran National Teachers Associations (ANDES) and the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR). Meanwhile, peasants who are demanding a reduction in the prices of farm materials are occupying the State Agricultural Development Bank building.

The demonstrations were organized separately by the ANDES, the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation (FECCAS), the Farm Workers Union (UTC), the Guillermo Rivas Union Coordinating Committee and the General Association of Salvadoran University Students (AGEUS).

The AGEUS asked for an increase in the University of El Salvador budget and the reincorporation of more than $9 million cut from the current budget.

ANDES demanded an end to the assissination of teachers which have been committed by unidentified groups in the past few days. FECCAS and the UTC demanded an "end to repression" and lower prices for farm materials. The coordinating Committee demanded the release of prisoners accused of violent activities and the "end of repression."

In the past few days, several leftist marches have ended tragically when authorities and demonstrators clashed.

The government today asked the organizers of public demonstrations to refrain from carrying weapons as has occurred in previous occasions.

PDC LEADER NOTES LACK OF DISCIPLINE WITHIN ARMY

PA141251 Paris AFP in Spanish 0350 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Feb (AFP)--Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, mayor of San Salvador and a top leader of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) said here today that some sectors within the army are not obeying the orders of the government junta.

Rey Prendes was referring specifically to incidents which occurred on Tuesday afternoon at the PDC headquarters, which until that time had been held by the 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28), one of El Salvador's leftist groups. On that occasion and on their own initiative, according to the official account, a group of policemen attacked the PDC headquarters and rescued the hostages who were being held inside.

The government maintains that the LP-28 militants fired at the policemen and killed one, which led his companions to react. On that occasion, five people were killed: four leftists and one policeman.

Rey Prendes said the policemen's action was premeditated and that although the PDC forms part of the government, it does not support the official explanation. Moreover, it compared the disorder within the army rank and file with that existing among the leftist groups.

There is disorder, he said, no one is ruling and no one obeys. He added that his party has requested an investigation to identify both the people who planned the incident and those who carried it out. Acts like these, he added, strengthen the leftists, who had lost acceptance among the popular masses.

He added: The leftist groups never carry out peaceful occupations. They are all violent because they are armed and the hostages are subjected to the most cruel psychological pressure. They talk of human rights, he added, but they themselves disregard those rights.

DUARTE SAYS ULTRARIGHT, ULTRALEFT HAVE SAME AIMS

PA140050 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 13 Feb 80 p 61 PA

[Text] Jose Napoleon Duarte replies to the extreme right.

Gentlemen: Thank you for having published the "document" that you yourselves produced, because in this manner there is not the least shadow of a doubt where it came from.

The "document" reveals the irresponsible recklessness you are capable of, and has given the authorities the opportunity to see that I was right when I warned them that the ultraright had produced this "document" because once more they would like to use the armed forces to defend their privileges and interests.

Just like the ultraleft, the ultraright would like to:

Divide the army; destabilize the regime; keep democracy from prevailing; provoke repression and civil war, and halt the structural changes and the true revolution.

But they will not get anywhere by trying to deceive (the people) with false reports, and they will achieve even less with that publication.

The government will fulfill its commitment by carrying out the reforms.

[Signed] Jose Napoleon Duarte. San Salvador, 12 February 1980.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CURRENT PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS

PA120422 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 11 Feb 80 PA

[Interview with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Dr Fidel Chavez Mena during a stopover in Panama on his way to Peru on 11 February 1980; place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Foreign Minister, the points which established the basis for the armed forces proclamation included a stop to violence as the first point. We would like to know what obstacles have prevented the reaching of this goal since the junta has been in power for almost 100 days?

[Answer] Just to give some general background to the Panamanian people, we now basically have a new government in El Salvador--a new government that was installed on 10 January. It is basically the result of a political pact between the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. This political pact has five points which are very specific and I will explain them very briefly because we do not have much time.

First, the process started in El Salvador which includes social and political changes is basically an antioligarchic process. This means that we are trying to break the oligarchic structure of economic and political power which has ruled El Salvador for more than 50 years. We believe that the transfer of this economic and political power from an oligarchy, that is a minority, a clique, to the majorities, that is the Salvadoran people, represents the main and essential path for eliminating the cause of violence.

Second, we are trying to implement a program of social and structural reforms. We could mention five as the most important reforms: First, an agrarian reform. It is important to reorganize land tenure in El Salvador and consequently, the redistribution of wealth derived from the agricultural sector. We cannot continue living under an agricultural structure such as the one we have had in the country. Second, a reform in regard to the nationalization of foreign trade. Aside from being an antioligarchic process, our process is aimed at giving the state control over foreign trade, particularly regarding farm products, coffee, cotton and sugar.

Third, we have the bank reform, the nationalization of banks. The important thing is for the banks and the country's financial system to fulfill a social commitment. This means that the credit would have an essentially social role for the benefit of the majorities. Again, this makes the process even more antioligarchic. The fourth is labor reform. This is essential to solve the labor conflicts between management and workers. The present labor code has not been a feasible, true and effective instrument to solve this type of conflict. The fifth reform, which is the essential base of the whole program, is the issue of a constitutional statute regulating and defining the legal status of a de facto regime so that this statute will not be an obstacle but an element to make the process feasible.

Third is the exit, we could call it that, or the nonrepresentation of the private sector at the government junta level. We understood it this way. It is not that we are developing a scheme against the private sector, it is just that we cannot promote a corporate state in the country. It is obvious that a representative [of the business sector] would defend his interests and the state must act as a social arbiter. Due to the nature and the depth of the country's social and economic crisis, the private sector is one of the elements in conflict. Consequently since the government acts as an arbiter, the private sector cannot participate at the government level.

The fourth point is the possibility of creating a government with broad bases, that is a center-leftist and basically pluralist government.

The fifth point is to start a fast, sincere and frank dialog with the popular and leftist groups. We feel that the combination of these five points will lead us to an end of violence in the country.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, there is the issue however, which is the demand of popular groups: the release of political prisoners. Why has not this government met this demand, which has been a constant irritation over the past few years?

[Answer] I believe that the popular organizations are right and that their demand is just. Political prisoners should not exist in El Salvador and if we want to start a process of structural changes in the economic and political fields, then we must not have political prisoners. According to official reports, there are no political prisoners. The commission especially appointed to investigate this established that there are no political prisoners in the country. The important thing is that the whereabouts of the persons who are still missing must be investigated, whatever the consequences that stem from this investigation. If these persons are not truly found, if they have definitely disappeared, the responsibility for this must be established.

Recently, on the occasion of the regrettable incident at the Spanish Embassy, the government gave precise instruction to the Attorney General's Office to open a thorough investigation of this problem. I believe that this is the time to set a precedent; a clear, precise and specific precedent because it is the only way the present government can start generating credibility and we are determined to get credibility.

[Question] In mentioning this credibility that the government is seeking, would the last consequences of this mean the formal trial of previous Presidents Col Arturo Hernando Molina and Gen Carlos Humberto Romero?

[Answer] Regarding this, I do not want to refer to specific persons. The important thing is that the persons who are found responsible, whoever they are, be tried because it is not possible that the crimes will go unpunished. This would really contribute to the pacification of the country.

[Question] Do you think that the million-dollar program just announced by the Carter administration would prevent the Salvadoran crisis from winding up in a civil war?

[Answer] I have hopes in the implementation of the five points I just mentioned. The intention of all the parties to find a peaceful solution to the country must just move on. I trust it will move on and we are in this because of it. The most important thing is to have confidence in oneself. We trust our movement and party. The PDC has been operating in the country for the past 20 years and we have entered into a pact with the armed forces. We are not willing to lose our prestige and political struggle just for the sake of any government. What I am really concerned about is the country's economic situation. There is a flight of capital and there is no investment. The political crisis is so deep that I fear the productive activity will stop. We are already having economic problems. Consequently, part of my duties as a foreign minister is to seek elements of support for the economy so that they can activate the country's economic process.

I do not believe we can depend much on the private sector because of the same reasons as the political situation. For this reason, we need international support at the loan and aid levels so that we can boost our economy.

[Question] In observing the geopolitical situation in Central America, would you say that the Salvadoran problem is truly limited to Salvadorans or do you feel there are other elements which are encouraging the struggle among yourselves?

[Answer] I honestly feel that the country's political situation is so serious that we should put aside arguments of a political nature. I believe that the people must be clearly and honestly spoken to. I frankly must tell you that in my personal view, the country's problem is basically Salvadoran. This does not mean that it cannot have an effect on Central America. It already has had an effect and will have it even more if the problem worsens. It may have a serious reverberation on Central America. I do not believe that the Republic of Nicaragua or the Sandinist movement, which I respect very much, are trying to export their revolution. During my recent visit to Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan Government gave me reasons which are so valid and have so much political weight and then these people evidence such seriousness that I truly think they are not trying to export their revolution. I believe that Nicaragua has such complicated problems that it has a lot to do. The Nicaraguans are involved in a very noble and patriotic task.

Our country has structural problems of a political, social and economic nature and the Salvadorans must solve them. Our problems are Salvadoran problems. If there is any foreign intervention, I cannot attest to that, however, I am under the impression that the revolutionary and popular organizations are acting within a desire to seek a better future for the country.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, how long do you think it will take for the present government to solve all these structural problems you have mentioned?

[Answer] Well [laughter], you are asking the million-dollar question. I believe that the important thing at this time is to solve the critical problems of the country's economic progress. Just as the government has stated, we must immediately launch a national emergency program and this involves the establishment of the rules of the game for the agricultural sector. The agricultural year starts on 1 April. February and March are the months for the preparation of the harvest for the agricultural year--the time for the granting of credits. It is necessary to give credits and point out the rules of the game for the agricultural sector in order to seek and maintain the present employment levels so that production--because the sole announcement of an agrarian reform decreases production--will remain at least at the levels of the previous year.

Regarding the industrial sector, the creation of a mixed commission between workers and management to draft a new labor code will be very important. The industrial sector will also depend on the boost that the banks give to it through the granting of loans.

The financing of banks has dropped a lot. Foreign aid is very important in this regard, particularly the loans that we get for the industrial sector.

I think that a combination of several factors added to a more effective state control in financial matters may result in a stable economy during the year, but not necessarily a situation of great prosperity. I am been very realistic.

[Question] What is the reason for your visit to our country?

[Answer] I was appointed 3 weeks ago. The first thing I did during my second week in office was to visit Central America and of course, I have a special interest in visiting Panama. I am on my way to Lima, Peru to meet with our mediator in the conflict we have with Honduras. I am taking advantage of this to visit the Panamanian foreign minister and president with whom I have an appointment this afternoon. In the first place, the duty of a foreign minister when he assumes office is to establish personal relations. In the second place, I have a special interest in explaining to the Panamanian authorities and government what I have told you, with a lot more details, obviously, not because I want to hide anything but because of reasons of our positions. I want to explain the problem, how we see it and what solutions we see for it. I believe that a brother country such as Panama, and since we are within the same area, must have a direct and personal report from the Foreign Ministry.

[Question] There have been rumors over the past few days on the possibility that Gen Omar Torrijos will be asked to act as a mediator. You, as a representative of your government, would you accept this mediation?

[Answer] This would have to be studied. We do not know anything about this request. We had reports because something of that sort was mentioned in the press but even in the negotiations we have had with the 28 February People's Leagues--the group that took over the Spanish Embassy and the PDC headquarters--there have been nothing specific about this. Of course, we have a lot of respect for the moral and political authority of General Torrijos. He is a very good friend of El Salvador and we are sure he would be willing to use any means to solve our domestic situation. All in all, we would have to analyze the terms for this. I personally never deny or reject the possibility to hold a dialog with whoever it has to be.

GUATEMALA

VICE PRESIDENT VILLAGRAN TENDERS RESIGNATION

PA141801 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] In an interview with the Costa Rican newspaper LA NACION, Guatemalan vice president Francisco Villagran has admitted there are no political prisoners but only political corpses in his country. Villagran, who has announced his resignation from the vice presidency, added that Guatemalan conservatives are pressuring the armed forces into intensifying repression by the direct intervention of troops or through the paramilitary gangs in the regime's service.

SALVADORAN EMBASSY MACHINEGUNNED; ONLY PROPERTY DAMAGE

PA141650 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1636 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Embassy in Guatemala was machinegunned by unidentified individuals around midnight.

In reporting the attack that damaged only window glass and office furniture, police said special care is being exercised to investigate the case.

The embassy and consulate office is located in the southern section of the capital where most diplomatic offices are.

INFORMATION SECRETARY HITS DISTORTED FOREIGN REPORTING

PA141535 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Presidential Public Relations Secretary Carlos Toledo Vielman stated today that the news published in some of the media abroad has unfortunately been quite distorted regarding Guatemala because of the irresponsibility of some correspondents who twist the truth. However, he added, the wave of biased news has diminished somewhat, mainly regarding what happened in the Spanish Embassy, as the truth of that incident now emerges.

The secretary directly referred to a report published in the Mexican daily ULTIMAS NOTICIAS that the government of President Lucas had been in agreement with landowners of El Quiche Department, especially those of German origin, who seized oil rights from the Indians. The truth is that the problems of those groups are of an entirely different kind, which makes this an example of completely false reporting.

It makes one sad, he said, that the correspondent of this Mexican daily, (Antonio Garza Morales), whom he received in his office to explain to him the true situation, had distorted it.

The Guatemalan official also made reference to an EFE report that several helicopters had machinegunned hundreds of peasants in San Luis Jilotopeque who had gathered at the marketplace in that town. This is not only a lie but a fabrication of the correspondent's mind, he said. I would like to ask, said Secretary Toledo Vielman, where the correspondent got this (?ill-intended) report.

He also made reference to irresponsible statements recently reported by the Mexican chapter of Amnesty International which indicate there is no freedom of the press in Guatemala. This is despite the fact President Lucas has repeatedly said his government maintains and will continue to maintain the most absolute freedom of information, press and thought, a commitment which he has kept and the Guatemalan media has been witness to. In very serious statements, Amnesty International said Guatemalan newsman Marco Tulio Barrios had been assassinated, when the truth is that he is presently pursuing his journalistic responsibilities.

Secretary Vielman pointed out that these are new examples of the action being carried out by international communism to disparage the Guatemalan regime abroad.

On another topic, the government official said he regretted the case of newsman (Adolfo) [second name indistinct] taking asylum in an embassy since he is a youthful member of Guatemalan journalism who up to now had not been known to get involved in political activities. But since he stated he considers himself politically persecuted, he places himself outside of the boundaries of journalism which, because of its very essence, should be objective and politically impartial in order to achieve its true mission of informing the public.

Referring to an important aspect of the nation's life, Secretary Toledo Vielman emphasized that he is in a position to declare that President Lucas Garcia is firmly disposed and determined to abide by the Constitution of the republic in connection with the forthcoming municipal elections in different (?cities) of the nation. He said the president wants to develop an atmosphere for the elections totally free of interference.

Therefore, he added, the parties should fully trust that the government of President Lucas Garcia will guarantee the honesty of the next elections since the present head of the state is a man who has made himself known for the firmness of his decisions and for keeping his word.

In conclusion, Secretary Toledo Vielman stated that the various forces of opinion in the nation have united in the face of [word indistinct] interference into national life, which attempt to open the path to totalitarianism in Guatemala. As a result of this growing unanimity of the Guatemalan people's feelings, the government of President Lucas Garcia has become stronger and today is in a very secure position.

HONDURAS

PEREZ MEETS WITH SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN SAN JOSE

PA151242 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1738 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Jose, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Eliseo Perez, foreign minister of Honduras, and Fidel Chavez, foreign minister of El Salvador, will meet here on Monday to assess the progress of the negotiations to resolve the differences which have separated these two countries since 1969.

Honduras and El Salvador went to war that year and broke off diplomatic relations which still have not been restored.

In statements to the local press, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier said: "It would be a great honor for Costa Rica to be able to help to seek a resumption of relations between the two countries."

Ministers Chavez and Perez visited San Jose separately. Both expressed their desire to meet here, where a decade ago several meetings were held seeking an understanding between the two nations.

The break in diplomatic relations between Honduras and El Salvador is considered a serious problem for the Central American Common Market from which Honduras broke away. At the present time, Peruvian diplomat Jose Bustamante y Rivero is acting as mediator in the conflict at the request of the OAS.

NICARAGUAN REFUGEES, GUARDSMEN ASKED TO LEAVE COUNTRY

PA150311 Paris AFP in Spanish 2201 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 14 Feb (AFP)--Honduran Government and Justice Minister Cristobal Diaz said here today that Nicaraguan refugees must leave Honduras "to guarantee the country's tranquillity and its neutrality in domestic affairs of neighboring countries."

The government minister's statement came in the wake of an official Honduran Foreign Ministry communique signed by Foreign Minister Eliseo Perez Cadalzo confirming the recent dismantling of a counterrevolutionary Somozist guard operation near the Nicaraguan border.

Perez Cadalzo today said "we had not reported anything on this case because we believed it is our duty to maintain good relations with our neighboring countries."

The foreign minister said the Honduran Government has maintained absolute reserve "because we already knew of the counterrevolutionary movements and were waiting until the right moment to dismantle the operation."

He said the Somozists, who were preparing to invade Nicaragua, have violated the right of asylum, and therefore, deserve to be expelled from the country.

In addition Col Hubert Bodden, commander of the Honduran Army's 11th Infantry Battalion stationed along the Nicaraguan border, said his troops had detected counterrevolutionary groups since January. Bodden said, "because of our neutrality, we did not allow Honduras to be a sanctuary for the Sandinists to overthrow Somoza, much less will we allow a counterrevolution to be hatched here against the present Nicaraguan Government."

In Honduras, there are still about 2,500 former Somozist guardsmen. More than 5,000 had sought refuge here after the Nicaraguan revolution's victory.

MINISTER NOTES CAUSES OF DIESEL RATIONING

PA130142 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Distributed by Inter-Central American Radio Organization]

[Excerpt] Economy Minister Carlos Manuel Zeron yesterday said the present rationing of diesel is due to the fact that Venezuela and the Caribbean refineries have withheld from Honduras over 7 million gallons of fuel. He said the rationing will last 2 months.

In view of this critical situation, which according to the minister has been imposed by the countries that supply us with refined fuels and the Venezuelan Government itself, an attempt is being made to obtain some fuel from Mexico.

However, Zeron ruled out the possibility that the Mexican Government might be able to sell oil to Honduras. It is definitely very difficult to obtain fuel from Mexico because the rationing is being applied at the international level.

Asked what reasons Venezuela has given for rationing the fuel supplies, the minister said the oil being extracted by Venezuela is so heavy that upon refining it produces more bunker than diesel or gasoline.

NICARAGUA

PARTY FIGURES DEMAND BREAK WITH GUATEMALA

PA140343 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2219 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--A Nicaraguan Social Christian Party (PSN) faction has addressed a note to the Reconstruction Government Junta asking it to break relations with the Guatemalan Government led by Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia.

The request is based on "the genocidal action perpetrated by that government's police forces against peasants, diplomats and visitors at the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala."

The PSN document stresses "the clear participation and direct responsibility of General Lucas Garcia's government in such an abominable incident."

The note, signed by Adan Fletes and Agustin Jaquin, the party's president and secretary general, respectively, concludes by suggesting that "in keeping with our revolution's humanitarian principles and as an elemental expression of our condemnation of an action that bears the unmistakable seal of Somozism, as well as an expression of solidarity with the oppressed Guatemalan people, we ask that the withdrawal of our diplomatic delegation to that government be decreed until responsibilities are determined and those guilty are punished."

The other social christian faction, that is, the Peoples Social Christian Party, led by Edgard Marcias, has not yet stated its stand on the Spanish Embassy incident.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON TIES WITH HONDURAS, GUATEMALA

PA131651 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister D'Escoto Brockman said that relations between Nicaragua and the other Central American nations are healthy but international news agencies distort reality.

Relations between Nicaragua and Honduras for example, are improving, even though they have never deteriorated or have not been in a sad state as was suggested by some news agencies and correspondents, said Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman when questioned by ATABAL SANDINISTA. What is more, he said, we are confident that the Honduran Government will respect our right to self-determination.

In Honduras and other parts of the world there are reactionary sectors which try to eliminate and obstruct revolutionary movements and serve the selfish interests of imperialism and world reactionaries. For example, in Honduras there are reactionaries who have joined with the Somozists who fled Nicaragua following the popular victory over the Somoza dictatorship and who try to create problems along the borders of these two sister nations.

On the other hand, Companero Minister Miguel d'Escoto said our revolutionary government condemns and deplores the recent bloody clashes at the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala.

Following are Companero D'Escoto Brockman's statements on Honduras and Guatemala:

[Begin D'Escoto recording in progress] ...have been improving considerably over the past 2 months or 6 weeks. This does not mean that they were ever as tense as they would seem if one had exclusively read the news agencies' reports on the alleged tensions and problems between Nicaragua and Honduras. The situation was never too serious.

We believe the Honduran Government will always respect our right to self-determination. We also believe their promise that they will never let their territory be used to launch a counterrevolutionary attack on the new Nicaraguan Government.

The problems we came across, nonetheless, stemmed from the fact that despite this official stand by the government, in Honduras, as in all other parts of the world, there are reactionary elements. In Honduras these reactionary sectors have united with a large number of former Somozist National Guardsmen who undoubtedly have been encouraged by the tyrant's son, possibly using the tyrant's money. As a result, incidents aimed at creating a tense situation between the two nations were taking place quite often.

But as I have already said, to a large extent all this has now been resolved.

[Question] [Words indistinct] the massacre that took place at the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala. What is our revolutionary government's stand on this incident?

[Answer] That was a truly regrettable incident, which we must condemn. We expect the Guatemalan Government--whose foreign minister sent me a note 2 days ago stressing their interest in a thorough investigation and in determining responsibilities--will avoid trying to conceal the truth concerning this case, which has so deeply moved world opinion. [end recording]

FOUR REFUGEES LEAVE CHILEAN EMBASSY FOR PANAMA

PA131926 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Four Nicaraguan refugees at the Chilean Embassy in this capital left for Panama yesterday after receiving the appropriate safe-conduct from the government. They are two former National Guardsmen, a professor and a deputy minister of Anastasio Somoza's overthrown regime.

The four can spend 6 days in Panama in the hope that another Spanish American nation will grant asylum to them. Acting Chilean Deputy Minister Javier (Llanes) said if no country does, they will leave for Chile after the 6 days.

PCDEN ORGAN CONDEMNS U.S. CAMPAIGN TO RETURN TO COLD WAR

PA150304 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Communist Party of Nicaragua (PCDEN) has condemned the campaign being orchestrated by the United States and aimed at returning the world to the cold war years.

The newspaper AVANCE, official PCDEN organ, noted that the most reactionary circles in Washington are taking advantage of recent incidents in Afghanistan to unleash an intense campaign of attacks and falsehoods against the Soviet Union and the leaders of the Cuban revolution while U.S. military forces are maneuvering in the Caribbean to intimidate the democratic movements of Latin America.

EPS OFFICER SAYS COUNTERREVOLUTION UNDER CONTROL

PA141556 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] Our Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS], guarantors of the revolutionary state, is in control over the counterrevolutionaries. Counterrevolution has no chance of spreading its selfish claws here because our EPS with its discipline, organization, and popular and revolutionary principles is watching over state security and the consolidation of the Sandinist peoples revolution.

In the late evening, sporadic shooting can be heard, notably in eastern Managua neighborhoods, but this does not mean any harassment is taking place because up to now no military targets have been attacked, guerrilla commander Walter Ferreti told EL ATABAL SANDINISTA. He is the second commander of state security.

Our companeros in the EPS are in full control of the workers front and its armed branch, the anti-Somozist Peoples Militia. They have seized the latter's weapons in the capital and elsewhere in the country. As a result, several media reported that there is harassment in the capital but what is actually occurring is that reactionary, counterrevolutionary individuals are sporadically setting off explosive devices and firing weapons to sow unrest among the people.

There has been no violence along the Honduran border, Companero Ferreti said, because the EPS is guarding the integrity of the state. He said there has been some movement of the troops guarding that border. He said some shots were recently fired on the Jiloa School in Managua and two individuals were arrested.

VARIOUS POSITIONS IN DISPUTE ON TREATY WITH COLOMBIA

Pedro Chamorro Viewpoint

PA142004 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Feb 80 p 2 PA

[Article by Pedro J. Chamorro Barrios: "Nicaragua Demands What Belongs to It"]

[Text] I completely heard Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto's speech clearly explaining all the important reasons for declaring null the Barcenas-Meneses-Esguerra Treaty which insults our nationality.

As a Nicaraguan, I am proud that our government has assumed such an honorable and sovereign position consistent with our Sandinist nationality.

The aforementioned treaty was signed due to imperialist pressures from the United States which at that time was violating our territory with the presence of more than 5,000 Marines who were fighting Augusto Cesar Sandino, our general of free men.

The islands belong to Nicaragua because they are located within our continental shelf and are five times closer to Nicaragua than to Colombia. They belong to us geographically, historically and legally.

The arguments are convincing and abundant. Nicaragua is an honorable country and we cannot permit treaties such as the Barcenas-Meneses-Esguerra Treaty to continue to violate our sovereignty. Nicaragua has reason on its side. Colombia has brute force, but reason will always win over force.

If I have criticized our government when it has adopted positions which are inconsistent with our nationalist principles, specifically the the case of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, I must also recognize and praise courageous and consistent attitudes such as the one we have assumed in declaring the Barcenas-Meneses-Esguerra Treaty invalid.

Neither imperialism of the East nor of the West.

LA PRENSA Supports Abrogation

PA091559 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The newspaper LA PRENSA, in article published yesterday, supports the revolutionary government's declaration of the abrogation of the Barcenas-Meneses-Esguerra Treaty which granted Colombia sovereignty over San Andres and Providencia Islands in the Caribbean. LA PRENSA says the declaration is patriotic and fully confirms the government's profound and sincere motivations. It also says that it meets the Nicaraguan people's nationalistic and purest aspirations.

Now we can say we have a government which firmly opposes the despoilation of which we have been victims throughout our history, as only true revolutionaries can. The paper adds that during the Somozist regime all patriotic and nationalistic stances were just pretenses to conceal from the world the repression and brainwashing the regime was carrying out against the Nicaraguan people.

PORTUGUESE PAPER REPORTS CUNHAL-CASTRO COMMUNIQUE

LD141251 Lisbon AVANTE in Portuguese 7 Feb 80 p 2 LD

[Unattributed report: "PCP Delegation in Cuba"]

[Excerpt] PCC-PCP Talks

In connection with the visit to Cuba by the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP] delegation headed by Comrade Alvaro Cunhal, the PCP's information and propaganda section issued the following information to the press early yesterday afternoon:

At the invitation of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, a PCP delegation headed by PCP Secretary General Alvaro Cunhal along with Central Committee member Antonio dos Santos Murteira visited Cuba 1-5 February 1980.

PCC First Secretary Fidel Castro held a broad exchange of views with the PCP delegation on fundamental issues of common interest to the two parties and the two peoples.

The PCP delegation also held talks with a PCC delegation headed by PCC Politburo member Osvaldo Dorticos and including Jesus Montane Cropesa, Central Committee member and chief of the general department of foreign relations, and Rafael Polanco, deputy chief of the same department, as well as Javier Ardizones and Julio Ballesta, section chief and official of the Central Committee respectively.

During the fraternal talks, the identity of viewpoints on the matters discussed and the spirit existing between the Portuguese and Cuban Communists were made clear. In all the places visited, the welcome given to the PCP delegation demonstrated the Cuban people's solidarity with the Portuguese people.

The PCP delegation gave an account of the current situation in Portugal and of the Portuguese people's struggle to defend the gains of 25 April [1974] and the democratic system, which is today threatened by the reactionary forces.

The PCC reiterated its support for the struggle of the Portuguese Communists and people, congratulated the PCP on its success in the recent elections for the Assembly of the republic and to the local posts and emphasized the importance of these successes in the resolute and consistent struggle waged by the PCP on the national and international levels.

The PCC representatives gave an account of the implementation of the decisions of the First PCC Congress and of the work being prepared for the Second Congress, which will take place this year.

The PCP delegation expressed its esteem for the efforts of the Cuban people to implement the tasks of building socialism and reiterated its condemnation of the blockade imposed on Cuba by the U.S. Government. It also expressed its support for the return of the U.S. military base of Guantanamo and of the territory it occupies against the Cuban people's wishes.

Analyzing the international situation, the representatives of the two parties emphasized the importance of the increasing struggle which the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America are waging to break the ties of colonial and neocolonial dependence and achieve their real and complete independence. They also spoke of the intensification of the struggle against racism, Zionism and apartheid and the increasingly broad solidarity which this struggle demands.

During the talks, the significant role played in international relations by the movement of nonalined countries, whose sixth summit was successfully held in Havana, was emphasized.

The two parties vigorously condemned the steps which imperialism and international reaction are taking to sabotage the successes achieved in detente and attempts to force the world back to the "cold war"--steps with unforeseeable consequences. They also repudiated the decisions proposed by the United States and adopted by NATO to modernize its arms and deploy new nuclear missiles in Europe; the U.S. Government's decision to freeze the ratification of the SALT II treaty and the actions of those advocating an irrational increase in military expenditures and those who assume the right to finance and organize counterrevolution in other countries.

Both parties vigorously support the struggle of the working class in the capitalist countries and the national liberation movements. They agreed on the urgent need to strengthen the unity of the democratic and progressive forces to withstand the plans of imperialism and reaction and insure the peoples' progress to achieve peace and socialism. In this connection, the significance of the role played by the USSR and the other countries of the socialist community in support of the peoples' revolutionary processes and maintaining peace throughout the world was emphasized.

The PCC delegation expressed its great satisfaction with Comrade Alvaro Cunhal's visit as well as its gratitude for the Portuguese Communists' unswerving solidarity with the Cuban revolution.

The development of cooperation and exchanges between the two parties was examined and new decisions made to constantly strengthen their ties of friendship. The two parties' desire to continue to work for the development of cooperation between Portugal and Cuba and for their respective peoples' progress and well-being was also reaffirmed.

CARTER'S 13 FEBRUARY PRESS CONFERENCE ASSESSED

FL142058 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 80 FL

[Text] U.S. President James Carter has reasserted the bellicose direction of his administration and has acknowledged that his government's aim has been to intensify the arms race in a press conference granted in New York. [as heard] The U.S. head of state literally stated: Since the first year of my administration we have considerably and consistently raised the level of defense expenditures. With this statement he stifled the widely-ridiculed electoral promises which enabled him to become President. Justifying that attitude, James Carter spoke about the alleged rights the United States claims to have for intervening anywhere in the world, and declared that various regions of the world were within the sphere of his country's interests, especially those which are closest to the Soviet Union.

In the same terms he referred to the petroleum resources of Iran and the entire Arabian Gulf area from where, he said, two-thirds of the world oil exports are shipped. He added that the United States takes advantage of all possibilities to attain its goals. Carter avoided journalists' questions related to U.S. intervention in Iran and the presence of the largest U.S. naval fleet in the waters off that country.

He announced that Washington will support an international investigation of the Iranian-U.S. crisis as long as it abides by the conditions imposed by the White House.

Taking pride in his provocative, bellicose, anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan policy, Carter referred to the events in Afghanistan and, after including that country in the sphere of Washington's vital interests, called it one of the most important regions in the world for the United States.

Carter defended his anti-Soviet policy and his proposal of commercial reprisals against the USSR, reiterated his intention not to send a U.S. team to the Moscow 1980 Olympic games and demanded an immediate halt to Soviet aid to the Afghan Government, which was given by the USSR as per a 1978 bilateral agreement between the two countries.

In a paroxysm of defiance before the press, the U.S. President insisted he will oppose any attempt to reduce the U.S. military budget, which amounts to nearly $160 billion.

PLO'S HABASH SPEAKS AT AALAPSO HEADQUARTERS

FL141330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Georges Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the PLO, today offered a lecture on the Palestinian situation. He spoke at the headquarters of the Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization, AALAPSO.

During his talk, the Palestinian leader pointed out that the importance of the Middle East lies not only in its geographical location but also in its huge oil reserves which represent 60 percent of world reserves and supplies 50 percent of U.S. needs.

Also present at the activity were members of the PLO delegation; Melba Hernandez, AALAPSO deputy secretary general; and (Miriam Balmaceda), AALAPSO executive secretary.

IDEOLOGICAL PRESSURE ON U.S. CUBANS ALLEGED

FL131144 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The Cuban community in the United States is living in a climate of ideological pressure that forces its members to refrain from expressing opinions out of fear of death or of losing their jobs, according to a report carried by the Mexican paper UNO MAS UNO.

Andres Gomez, representative of the Antonio Maceo Brigade in Miami, Florida, was interviewed by the Mexican daily's special correspondent Jaime Aviles. Gomez said that the climate of ideological pressure based on terror prevents political debate and the evolution of thought in the Cuban community on U.S. territory. He emphasized that the Antonio Maceo Brigade is actively fighting for the eradication of the terrorist groups made up of lumpen, who subsist through drug trafficking, and fascist individuals. Gomez said that one of the objectives of the Antonio Maceo Brigade is to work for lifting the economic blockade the United States imposed on Cuba in 1961 as well as the reunification of Cuban families.

OFFICIAL TRADE TALKS WITH GRENADA BEGIN

FL142319 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Official talks between the trade delegation of Grenada's revolutionary people's government and the Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry opened here.

The Grenadian side is headed by Selwyn Strachan, minister of labor, public works and communications, and the Cuban side by Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrizas. Participating in the talks together with Strachan are Minister of State (Jules Lande Bullen), Chamber of Commerce President (Moralte N. Thompson) and Grenada's Ambassador to Cuba (W. Richard Jacobs).

Other Cuban officials attending the talks are Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Manuel Estefania, Chamber of Commerce President Jose M. Diaz Mirabal and Foreign Trade Ministry Directors Amadeo Blanco and Arnold Rodriguez. The Grenadan officials, who arrived in Cuba last night on an official visit, will be received by Cuban Government leaders and will visit production centers and places of historical interest.

HUNGARIAN LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY MARKED

FL141616 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1518 GMT 14 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Arnaldo Milian, member of the party's Politburo and minister of agriculture, has noted in Jaguey Grande, Matanzas the 15th anniversary of Budapest's liberation from the fascist yoke and paid homage to the Hungarian people.

Milian spoke at a simple ceremony on the occasion of Hungarian Agriculture Minister Pal Romany's visit to the Victoria de Giron citrus fruits enterprise, the largest of its kind in the country. Milian cited the heroism of the Hungarian patriots and noted the ties of friendship uniting both peoples and communist parties. For his part, Pal Romany thanked the Cuban Government for its invitation and spoke of the importance of the Second Communist Party of Cuba Congress.

CASTRO URGES RENEWED EFFORTS IN SUGAR HARVEST

FL141310 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has called on the chairmen of the People's Government Provincial Executive Committees to give their utmost attention to the current sugar harvest in order to make it efficient, fulfill the [production] plan and be able to compensate for the ill effects of various plagues on the Cuban economy in recent months.

In a talk with persons attending the sixth national meeting of the [Council of Ministers] office for servicing the local organs of the People's Government and the chairmen of the provincial executive committees, Fidel spoke about the plagues which are affecting vital areas of the economy such as sugarcane rust, tobacco blue mold and African swine fever, which has broken out in Guantanamo. Fidel said that great efforts have been made to fight these plagues. He dwelt on the fact that we must meet sugar harvest goals even under difficult conditions due to the scarcity of spare parts for agricultural machinery. He said we must make the most of these 45 harvest days and grind enough to meet the plan. This is our chance in the midst of our difficulties.

Elsewhere in his talk, Fidel gave an account of the measures that have been taken in support of public health services. He explained that some 50 hospitals and institutes have been visited to examine the problems facing them, and solutions to many of the problems have been found. He observed that all provinces will receive assistance on the basis of a study being made to determine their needs.

Fidel also spoke of the importance of nurses in public health. He said that the nurse training program should be revised to make it more practical. He added that a new uniform has been designed for nurses. During his talk with the chairmen of the provincial executive committees of the People's Government, Fidel also spoke of transportation problems. He said that the transportation situation in Havana City has improved somewhat, that regulations will allow for improved discipline and that we must repair the streets to keep vehicles in good condition.

MEXICO SEEKS MORE TRADE WITH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

FL142200 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Feb 80 p 3 FL

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 8 Feb (CANA)--Mexico wants to increase its trade with the Caribbean and has urged the strengthening of the multinational shipping enterprise of the Caribbean (MAMUCAR), according to a communique issued here last night following Wednesday's talks between Mexican President Mr. Lopez Portillo and Jamaican Prime Minister Mr. Michael Manley.

The present socio-political situation in the region was a major feature of the seven-hour discussions held in Mexico City at the invitation of Mr. Lopez Portillo.

The first meeting of the Mexican-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) joint commission takes place in Barbados in May and the two leaders hoped that measures will be adopted to bring the two areas closer together, the communique said.

New agreements regarding oil and alumina were reached which are vital to the survival of Jamaica's struggling economy.

Negotiations are to be undertaken with regard to the supply of up to 10,000 barrels of oil per day to Jamaica by Mexican state-owned corporation, PEMEX.

Local sources have said that this new contact will not affect relations with Jamaica's present main suppliers--Venezuela, Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago and may not necessarily be restricted to crude.

In terms of alumina, Jamaica is to be given an option to subscribe to 10 per cent of the shares in a new Mexican aluminum project, while Mexico is being offered a similar investment in a Jamaican alumina project. Jamaica is also to be granted preference for the supply of 420,000 tons of alumina annually at international prices, the communique said.

"The Jamaican energy problem was examined, and it was resolved to continue the contacts already begun between PEMEC and (the local equivalent) PETROJAM, with a view to establishing cooperation between the two concerns and the Mexican supply of oil in the future for use by the Jamaican refinery, up to 10,000 barrels per day--as far as the increased capacity for export of PEMEX will permit," the communique said.

"As to co-operation in the sphere of aluminum, the Mexican Government will make available to Jamaica, for subscription, up to 10 per cent of the shares in its new project to produce 220,000 tons annually of aluminum to Mexico.

CARICOM MINISTERS CALL FOR UNITY, STATESMANSHIP

FL142145 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Feb 80 p 11 FL

[Excerpts] Castries, 7 Feb--CARICOM foreign ministers opended a three-day meeting here yesterday with Secretary General Dr. Kurleigh King calling for statemanship and the highest degree of diplomatic skill from the delegations in an apparent attempt to quash any possibility of heated argument over one of the most important items on the agenda: the question of ideological pluralism in the region.

Saint Lucia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister George Odlum, who welcomed the delegates, said that there was an international game of 'enlightened self interest' being played where aid was being dangled with one hand and" a quid pro" was expected from the other.

Caribbean countries must be careful and make their projections in this matter principled, Mr. Odlum said.

He felt that sovereignty and territorial integrity were two important principles which should guide the behaviour of CARICOM states on the international scene, and urged foreign ministers to always respect the right of every individual territory to act in the way it felt was right in the interest of its people.

Mr. Odlum also urged the Caribbean to make a projection for peace and declare the Caribbean region a zone of peace. He also warned that CARICOM countries should be careful not to be used as pawns in bringing about division in the Caribbean itself.

Said Mr. Odlum," We must not be party to any isolation of any territory or any interference in the domestic affairs of individual Caribbean territories. We must respect the sovereign right of these territories at all times. We must be wary of the fact that people of nations pursuing their own self interest would not be adverse to dividing the Caribbean."

Dominica's Prime Minister Oliver Seraphin, in a speech sent to the meeting, called on the region not to allow ideological pluralism to "engender conflict among us:" This, he said, would only serve to use the path of the big powers to extend cold war conflict into the Caribbean.

And Guyana's Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson, speaking on behalf of the more developed states, said there had been steps taken by people from outside the region which sought to make the Caribbean area one of competition for influence.

The meeting, he said, would have to give consideration to these developments to see what steps the Caribbean could take to ensure its security and survival as an entity of free states. (CANA)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SEND DELEGATION TO CARICOM MEETING

FL142150 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Feb 80 p 1 FL

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago has not sent any representative to the CARICOM foreign ministers conference which was held in Saint Lucia over the past three days.

Senior government officials had no comments to make yesterday about Trinidad and Tobago's absence from the regional meeting.

It was the first time in the history of CARICOM that Trinidad and Tobago has not been represented at a meeting organized by the regional body.

However, sources pointed out that up to early last week Trinidad and Tobago was prepared to send a representative but a decision was later taken not to send any.

Trinidad and Tobago is usually represented at ministerial or ambassadorial level at the CARICOM meetings in addition to government officials.

Recently, whenever a minister had not been able to attend meetings of CARICOM, Ambassador Plenipotentiary Basil Pitt had been delegated to attend.

The three-day foreign ministers conference in Saint Lucia began on Wednesday and was chaired by Mr. George Odlum, deputy prime minister and minister of external affairs of Saint Lucia.